

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EA-10

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R 220115Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6025

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH US UR

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S DAILY ON US-USSR SPACE FLIGHT

SUMMARY: PEOPLE'S DAILY HAS CONDEMNED HEAVY SOVIET EXPENDITURES ON SPACE EXPLORATION WHILE STILL FAILING TO TAKE NOTE OF THE JOINT US-USSR SPACE FLIGHT. THE JULY 20 ARTICLE SOUNDS LIKE SOUR GRAPES OVER THE LATEST(AND VERY VISIBLE) US-USSR DETENTE STEP AND, FOR THE CHINESE AUDIENCE, THE PRC APPEARS TO BE MAKING THE POINT THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT IS MORE CONCERNED WITH BETTERING THE LIVES OF ITS PEOPLE. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE CONTINUING THE PRC MEDIA'S SELF-IMPOSED SILENCE ON THE CURRENT JOINT US-USSR SPACE FLIGHT, PEOPLE'S DAILY JULY 20 CONDEMNS THE SUPERPOWERS FOR SPREADING THEIR COMPETITION FROM EARTH TO SPACE. BOTH SUPERPOWERS ARE CONDEMNED FOR USING THEIR SPACE SATELLITES FOR MILITARY AND SPY PURPOSES, WITH THE SOVIETS RECEIVING THE MASSIVE SHARE OF ATTENTION.

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2. THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE ARTICLE, HOWEVER IS THE SOVIET'S HEAVY EXPENDITURES ON SPACE EXPLORATION AND THE CLAIM THAT THESE EXPENDITURES HAVE ADDED TO THE HARDSHIP OF THE WORKING SOVIET MASSES. WHATEVER BENIFITS MIGHT BE GAINED FROM THE SOVIET SPACE PROGRAM, THE ARTICLE MAINTAINS, ARE USED FOR "EXPLORATION AND OPPRESSION AT HOME AND CONTENTION FOR HEGEMONY EITH US IMPERIALISM ABORAD". IN COMPARISON WITH THE ENORMOUS SPACE EXPENDITIURES, SOVIET INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT IS "OSOLETE" AND TECHNOLOGY IS "BACKWARDS".

3. DESPITE THE OBVIOUS LINKAGE OF THIS ARTICLE TO THE CURRENT JOINT US-USSR SPACE FLIGHT, THE ARTICLE DOES NOT MENTION THE FLIGHT. THE SUPERPOWER CONTENTION THEME OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS THE ARGUMENT CARRIED BY THE PRC-OWNED HONG KONG PRESS DURING FLIGHT IS JUST A COVER-UP FOR THE REAL LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE FOR WORLD HEGEMONY BEING CARRIED OUT ON EARTH BY THE SUPERPOSERS. AS AN EXPAMPLE THE HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO POINTED OUT THAT THE ASTRONAUTS EXCHANGED HANDSHAKES AT A SPOT ABOVE PORTUGAL, WHICH IS A "HOT POINT OF CONTENTION".

4. THE ONLY MENTION THE PRC MEDIA HAS MADE OF THE FLIGHT HAS BEEN THE LAST LINE OF AN NCNA JULY 20 ITEM ON THE JULY UNCTAD CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IN WHICH A SUDANESE REPRESENTATIVE IS QUOTED AS COMMENTING "THE EMBRACE OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS IN SPACE DOES NOT HAVE ENEN THE LEAST SIGNAFICANCE TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED NATIONS".

5. THE PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE SOUNDS VERY MUCH LIKE A CASE OF SOUR GRAPES  
OVER THE LATEST SPECTACULAR IN US-USSR  
DENTENTE. BY NOT REPORTING THE JOINT SPACE FLIGHT, THE PRC MEDIA HAVE ELIMINATED THE NECESSITY OF DISCUSSING US-USSR COOPERATION. IN REPORTING THE "SPY SATELLITES", THE ARTICLE'S ATTENTION IS FOCUSSSED ON SOVIET SPYING ON THE US, NOT ON EUROPE CHINA, OR THE REST OF THE WORLD THEREBY EMPASIZING CONTINUING US-SOVIET MUTUAL MISTRUST. FOR THE DOMESTIC AUDIENCE , THE MESSAGE IS THAT SCIENCE SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE MASSES--THUS, CHINA IS DEVOTING ITS RESOURSES TO BETTERMENT OF THE LIVES OF ITS PEOPLE WHILE THE SOVIETS CONCENTRATE ON  
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AGGRESSIVE, MILITARY DESIGNS ON THE WORLD.  
CROSS

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